hao. Thus the Emperor whose temple name is Sheng Tsu Jen is best known in the Occident by his *nien kao,* K'ang Hsi.

In theory, the Emperor was supreme over all civilized human society. He was the administrative director of the state and officials derived their authority and titles from him. In him resided the power of legislation, and he was the supreme judge. The religious head of society, he not only performed many ceremonies, either in person or by proxy, as the high priest of mankind, but appointed or confirmed the chief dignitaries of various cults, such as the Dalai Lama and the Taoist "Pope." He presided over the intellectual world, and certain of the highest of civil service examinations were supposedly conducted by him in person.

In practice, of course, the power of the Emperor was curtailed in many ways. Most of the imperial powers had to be delegated. Precedent, public opinion, customs, the inertia of the vast body of officialdom, particularly of the local authorities, the .distances, great if measured by the time required for travel, the elaborate formalities and ceremonial which governed the court and by which even a strong monarch found himself restrained, the moral law as expressed in the Classics of the Confucian school, legal codes inherited from the past, councilors, the official censors, the impossibility, even for the ablest, of fulfilling in person all the exacting duties of the office, and, in the case of the Ch'ing, the racial incompatibility between the Manchus and the Chinese—all acted as a check on the Emperor, A man of extraordinary energy and ability, such as a K'ang Hsi or a Ch'ien Lung in his

younger days, could dominate the entire machinery of state. A monarch of lesser ability could not make his will so effective—as when Kuang Hsu failed to carry through the reforms of 1898.

The Emperor had an Empress Consort, secondary wives, and concubines of several ranks. None of these, however, was supposed to have a voice in the government. As we have seen, an Empress Dowager might have immense influence. If the Emperor were a minor, a regent acted for him, and the power of an Empress Dowager was greatly enhanced if she held that office.

The administration of the palace necessitated a vast array of functionaries and servants. The heads of the organization of the imperial household were usually of high rank. Much of the work